

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

WJchl 26 MAR 97  
SECNAVINST 1700.11C  
NMPC-1 655  
21 July 1986

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 1700.11C

From: Secretary of the Navy  
To: All Ships and Stations

Subj: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

- Ref: (a) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1973, art. 1150 (NOTAL)  
(b) DoD Regulations 1015.3R of 31 May 82 (NOTAL)  
(c) SECNAVINST 5300.29 (NOTAL)  
(d) SECNAVINST 7042.7F (NOTAL)  
(e) SECNAVINST 7042.13 (NOTAL)  
(f) SECNAVINST 4650.15A (NOTAL)  
(g) DoD Directive 4515.12 of 12 Dec 1964 (NOTAL)

1. Purpose. To revise Department of the Navy regulations for the possession, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages within military installations under naval jurisdiction under references (a) and (b).

2. Cancellation. SECNAVINST 1700.11B.

3. Summary of Changes. This instruction is a complete revision; consequently, symbols to denote deleted, revised, or added paragraphs are not reflected.

4. Policy. Use of alcoholic beverages on naval installations must be consistent with the overriding need for military readiness, discipline and community safety. In meeting this objective the sale, purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages will be governed by the following considerations:

a. Most Navy and Marine Corps personnel who use alcoholic beverages do so responsibly. Because some abuse alcoholic beverages, balanced measures to prevent and deter abuse as provided in reference (c) must be an integral part of the management of alcoholic beverages on naval installations.

b. Sale of alcoholic beverages must be balanced with non-alcoholic beverages and recreational activities to encourage healthful life styles for members, their families, and friends.

c. Club/mess operations, which are intended to foster camaraderie, esprit and friendship in the active duty naval community must maintain a satisfactory balance of wholesome service to all, without rigid restrictions that reduce their benefit to unmarried personnel. There should be proper standards of dress and decorum maintained, as appropriate to the different areas and services provided and the formality or informality of the functions.

d. Sale, purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages on naval installations shall conform to

drinking age limitations of the state or country in which the installation is located except as specifically authorized under this instruction. In the absence of any local law the minimum drinking age shall be 18 years for active duty military personnel.

e. Except as specifically authorized in this instruction, the sale, purchase, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages within any military installation or vessel under naval jurisdiction is prohibited.

5. Definition. The term "alcoholic beverages" means wines, distilled spirits, and malt beverages.

6. Sale of packaged alcoholic beverages

a. The sale of packaged alcoholic beverages may be authorized by the Chief of Naval Operations (for Navy activities), the Commandant of the Marine Corps (for Marine Corps activities), or by commanders designated by them in the following activities:

(1) Outlets outside the United States (the 50 States and the District of Columbia), and at locations specifically approved by the Secretary of the Navy within the United States and the District of Columbia.

(2) Civilian employee nonappropriated fund clubs (outside the United States only).

b. Sale of packaged wine and distilled spirits at other activities may be authorized only by the Secretary of the Navy.

7. Sale, possession, and consumption by the drink. The Chief of Naval Operations (for Navy activities), the Commandant of the Marine Corps (for Marine Corps activities), or commanders designated by them may authorize:

a. Sale and consumption of all alcoholic beverages by the drink in the following activities:

(1) Officers' messes.

(2) Chief petty officers' messes.

(3) Petty officers' messes.

(4) Staff noncommissioned officers' clubs.

(5) Enlisted messes (enlisted clubs in the Marine Corps).

(7) Golf course club houses.

**SECNAVINST 1700.11C**  
**21 July 1986**

**(8) Navy Lodges and Marine Corps Temporary Lodging Facilities** (limited to sale of miniature-sized containers of distilled spirits and wine and individual containers of malt beverages for on-premises possession and consumption in rooms or suites).

**(9) Bowling alley lounges.**

**(10) Areas designated by the installation commander for command entertainment or organized social functions on an occasional basis.**

**b. Malt beverages only at the following activities:**

**(1) Navy and Marine Corps exchanges.**

**(2) Bachelor officers' quarters and senior bachelor enlisted quarters** (limited to sale for on-premises consumption through beer-vending machines which are under constant supervision to ensure the purchaser is of the required drinking age).

**(3) Bowling alley snack bars.**

**c. Sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages by the drink at other facilities only when specifically authorized by the Secretary of the Navy.**

**8. Possession and consumption in quarters.** Subject to the drinking age for the installation, possession and consumption is authorized in:

**a. Officers' quarters.**

**b. Married enlisted quarters.**

**c. Bachelor enlisted quarters as authorized by the Chief of Naval Operations (for Navy activities) and the Commandant of the Marine Corps (for Marine Corps activities).**

**d. Civilian employees' quarters.**

**9. Exceptions to minimum drinking age.** The Chief of Naval Operations (for Navy activities) and the Commandant of the Marine Corps (for Marine Corps activities) may authorize exceptions to permit the sale of alcoholic beverages to military personnel as follows. Requests for exceptions shall be made via the chain of command.

**a. Remote location.** At remote locations where privately owned motorized vehicles are unavailable for use by service member.

**b. Health and safety within the 50 states.** This exception applies at installations within approximately 50

miles or one hour driving of a neighboring state or foreign nation with a lower drinking age than the state in which the installation is located. It must be determined that there is a substantial risk of increased incidence of intoxicated driving by service members driving to or from the jurisdiction with the lower drinking age. The sole factor in granting or denying this exception will be motor vehicle safety in the community. Under this exception, the sale, purchase, and on-premise consumption by the drink on the installation of the type of alcoholic beverages that may legally be sold, purchased, or consumed in the neighboring state or foreign nation is authorized.

**c. Health and safety in overseas areas.** When the health or welfare of personnel may be adversely affected by local conditions.

**d. Morale, esprit, and unit cohesion.** Installation commanders may authorize exceptions for on-premise consumption by the drink under controlled conditions to foster camaraderie and friendship in a military environment that will appeal to the entire spectrum of the military community. These may be authorized on those infrequent, non-routine occasions when an entire unit, as a group, marks at a military installation a uniquely military occasion such as the conclusion of arduous military duty or the anniversary of the establishment of a military service, command, or organization. The event must be held ashore on an installation under naval jurisdiction and personnel must be in a nonduty status. Installation commanders must ensure that appropriate controls are in place to prevent endangering personnel or the surrounding community.

**10. Employment of personnel in the dispensing of alcoholic beverages.** No person shall be employed within any installation as a bartender or in any other capacity involving the selling or dispensing of alcoholic beverages when such employment in civilian establishments is prohibited by state law because of age.

**11. Alcoholic beverages on board naval vessels and aircraft**

**a. Except as provided in this paragraph, the introduction, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages for beverage purposes on board naval vessels and aircraft is prohibited unless authorized by the Secretary of the Navy in accordance with reference (a).**

**b. Malt beverages may be transported in naval vessels for sale to ship's personnel sent ashore at isolated points outside the continental United States (the contiguous 48 States and the District of Columbia) not having adequate recreational facilities.**

c. Alcoholic beverages may be transported for personal use ashore, in the discretion of the commanding officer, in naval vessels and aircraft subject to the reporting and certification requirements of reference (a).

d. Alcoholic beverages may be transported as cargo consigned to bases outside of the continental United States (the contiguous 48 States and the District of Columbia), for use in authorized activities of such bases.

e. Sherry, wine and beer may be served on naval vessels in support of diplomatic and community relations as prescribed in paragraph 12, and may be maintained and transported in naval vessels for this purpose.

R) f. As a limited exception to references (a) and (b), numbered fleet commanders of naval and Military Sealift Command vessels participating in high-tempo, arduous operations are authorized to permit consumption of up to two 12-ounce cans or bottles of beer by each member of the crew or embarked unit during an appropriate one-day stand down at sea. Consumption is to occur in conjunction with appropriate morale enhancing activities such as flight deck or fantail cookouts where nonalcoholic beverages must also be available. One-day stand downs are authorized subject to operational commitments and local threat assessments, for vessels which have attained forty-five consecutive days at sea and will not arrive in a liberty port within five days of the day scheduled for consumption. Consumption is permitted on a one-time basis following each forty-five day period and is not a daily ration. Any voyage repair, upkeep period or in-port period where any liberty is granted, and any at-sea stand down under this exception constitutes termination of a continuous at-sea period.

A) g. Per provisions of reference (a), the dispensing and use of alcoholic beverages as defined in paragraph 5 is authorized for beverage purposes on board naval aircraft in conjunction with Congressional travel. This authorization applies only to DOD or SECNAV approved missions which are in direct support of Congressional travel authorized by references (f) and (g).

h. Alcoholic beverages transported as provided in this paragraph shall be accounted for and secured properly at all times. (A)

## 12. Alcoholic Beverages on Naval Vessels in Support of Diplomatic and Community Relations

a. When hosting American and foreign visitors, as appropriate, in support of diplomatic and community relations goals, commanding officers of afloat units and embarked flag officers are authorized to serve sherry, wine, and beer on board U.S. Navy vessel, when in U.S. and foreign ports. (D)

b. Possession and consumption of sherry, wine, and beer on these occasions shall be limited to the wardroom, flag mess, or other area designated by the commanding officer or embarked flag officer.

c. These beverages shall be purchased using funds of the hosting private mess. When specifically authorized under references (d) and (e), official representation funds may be used for these purposes.

13. Responsibility. The Chief of Naval Operations (for Navy activities) and Commandant of the Marine Corps (for Marine Corps activities) are responsible for ensuring control of alcoholic beverages following the policies and procedures in this instruction.

WILLIAM L. BALL, III  
Secretary of the Navy

### Distribution:

SNDL Parts 1 and 2  
MARCORPS Codes H and I  
COMNAVMILPERSCOM (100 copies)

### Commander

Naval Data Automation Command  
(Code 813)  
Washington Navy Yard  
Washington, DC 20374-1662 (20 copies)

### Stocked:

CO, NAVPUBFORMCEN  
5801 Tabor Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19120-5099 (500 copies)